

# NOTES



March - April 2005

*The 2005 Concert Season is in full swing, with performances around the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area throughout March and April*

PUBLISHED FOR THE FRIENDS OF "THE PRESIDENT'S OWN"

# Taking the Podium

## Assistant Directors Provide Support for Band's Mission and Artistic Goals

The history of the Marine Band Assistant Director began in 1873 when Salvatore Petrola was tasked as assistant to then-Director Louis Schneider. In 1899, the official offices of first and second leaders of the Marine Band were established by an Act of Congress. After World War II, the titles were revised to Director



Senior Assistant Director  
and Executive Officer  
Captain Jason K. Fettig

and Assistant Director. The modern Assistant Director works with the Director to coordinate, manage, and facilitate the ongoing operations of "The President's Own."

### Captain Jason K. Fettig

For Captain Jason K. Fettig, music has been a life-long practice. He was five years old when his mother showed him images of instruments and the sleek, black clarinet caught his eye.

"I hadn't really heard any band or orchestra instruments, and didn't know what the differences were," Capt. Fettig recalls. "I picked the clarinet because it was black, and black was my favorite color at the time."

Capt. Fettig did not immediately begin playing the clarinet, but trained on the recorder for a few months until his five-year-old fingers became used to the feel of the instrument.

Years later, as a talented high school clarinetist seeking to experience all musical forms, Capt. Fettig's musical curiosity led him to conducting:



Assistant Director First Lieutenant  
Michelle A. Rakers

"Music was music to me, and I really wanted to participate in everything I possibly could."

A good student who loved science and once even aspired to be a pilot, Capt. Fettig attributes his decision to pursue a music career to his early teacher Karleen Dell'ova and high school band director David Bresnahan.

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## Marine Band Releases "Emblems," 20th Title in CD Series

"The President's Own" has released the 20th title in its educational recordings series, *Emblems*, which features three cornerstone works for band combined with two older works from early wind repertoire that were edited or re-written for modern bands. *Emblems* was the last recording conducted by Colonel Timothy W. Foley before his retirement on July 17, 2004.

The bookend tracks on *Emblems* are Vincent Persichetti's *Symphony for Band*,



Opus 69, composed by Persichetti in 1956 at the height of his compositional craft, and Paul Hindemith's *Symphony in B-flat for Band*, which he composed in 1951. The central track is Aaron Copland's 1964 work, *Emblems*, a piece showcasing his ability to expand a folk melody, in this case "Amazing Grace," into something entirely different, yet still distinctly American.

Alongside these foundations for wind band are Renaissance composer and organist

*CD continued on page 5*

### Quotable Quote

*"I just love the level of the sound and breadth of what they can do. They look magnificent performing on the stage."*

—Renowned film composer John Williams, on the Marine Band's performance of his works at the 2004 Kennedy Center Honors

### White House Highlights

Recent Marine Band appearances at the White House include:

- Christmas tree arrival
- Congressional Ball
- Kennedy Center Honors reception
- Presidential Medal of Freedom
- Presidential Inaugural Ceremony and Parade
- Commander-in-Chief's Ball
- Patriot Ball
- Texas-Wyoming Ball

### Marine Band Performs in Inaugural Ceremony, Parade Jan. 20

The Marine Band marked its 52nd Inauguration appearance Jan. 20, performing at the 55th Inauguration of the President of the United States. The band is the only full unit to participate in both the oath-of-office ceremony at the U.S. Capitol and the Inaugural Parade in downtown Washington, D.C.

Beginning at 10 a.m., the band performed a selection of marches for the prelude, including "Washington Post," "The Thunderer," "Semper Fidelis," and "The Invincible Eagle," all by the band's 17th Director, John Philip Sousa.

Director Lieutenant Colonel Michael J. Colburn led the band in accompanying acclaimed mezzo-soprano Susan Graham in May H. Brahe and Helen Taylor's

"Bless This House," and opera star Denyce Graves in Gene Scheer's "American Anthem."

After President George W. Bush's oath-of-office, the traditional Ruffles and Flourishes were sounded, and the Marine Band performed "Hail to the Chief."

Following the ceremony, Drum Major Master Gunnery Sergeant Thomas D. Kohl led the 99-piece band in the Inaugural Parade down Pennsylvania Avenue. The band played four Ruffles and Flourishes and The Marines' Hymn as they marched past President Bush's reviewing stand, honoring the Commander-in-Chief as they have done since participating in their first Inauguration in 1801.



*Drum Major Master Gunnery Sergeant Thomas Kohl leads the U.S. Marine Band down Pennsylvania Avenue in the Inaugural Parade on Jan. 20*

### "The President's Own" Launches New and Improved [www.marineband.usmc.mil](http://www.marineband.usmc.mil)

Earlier this year, "The President's Own" launched a completely re-designed website. The address is the same, but everything else has been improved to better serve all patrons.

The site features faster, more user-friendly navigation; hundreds of images of "The President's Own"; fast searching for concerts by date, ensemble, and location; links to concert venues; and information on the Marine Band's role at the White House. The new [www.marineband.usmc.mil](http://www.marineband.usmc.mil) also has an online resources section featuring a library and historical

gallery, materials for teachers and students, a kids' section, an events calendar, a media corner, and a members section.

The newly launched site is a result of two years of development and collaboration by the members of "The President's Own" with the creative team of Wood Street, Inc., and Linda Sherman Design.

If you haven't visited [www.marineband.usmc.mil](http://www.marineband.usmc.mil) lately, take a look and give us your feedback at [USMBPAO@mbw.usmc.mil](mailto:USMBPAO@mbw.usmc.mil).



## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Marine Band  
UMD Clarice Smith  
Performing Arts Center  
Sunday, March 6 at 2 p.m.

*Captain Jason K. Fetting, conducting*

SHORT CUTS: MUSIC OF ACTION  
AND REACTION

**Samuel Barber**  
Commando March

**Igor Stravinsky**  
“Ebony” Concerto for Clarinet  
and Jazz Ensemble (1945)  
*SSgt James Thomley, soloist*

**Henk Badings**  
Symphony No. 15,  
*Conflicts and Confluences* (1983)

**Robert Morris**  
*Cuts* (1984)

**Aaron Copland**/trans. Copland  
Suite from *The Red Pony*

Marine Chamber Ensembles  
George Washington Masonic  
National Memorial Auditorium  
Sunday, March 13 at 2 p.m.

**Leos Janáček**  
*Mládí [Youth]* (1924)

**Franz Schubert**  
Introduction and Variations on “Trockne  
Blumen” from *Die schöne Müllerin*,  
D. 802

**Arnold Schoenberg**  
Chamber Symphony No. 1 in E, Opus 9

Marine Chamber Orchestra  
UMD Clarice Smith  
Performing Arts Center  
Sunday, March 20 at 2 p.m.

*Lieutenant Colonel Michael J. Colburn,  
conducting*

AMADEUS: AN ALL-MOZART PROGRAM

Sinfonia Concertante in E-flat, K. 297B  
*SSgt Shawn Welk, oboe*  
*MGySgt Lisa Kadala, clarinet*  
*MSgt Max Cripe, horn*  
*GySgt Christopher McFarlane, bassoon*

Concerto for Two Pianos in E-flat,  
K. 365  
*SSgt Russell Wilson*  
*and SSgt AnnaMaria Mottola, soloists*

Symphony No. 40 in G minor, K. 550

Marine Chamber Ensembles  
The National Theatre  
1321 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.,  
Washington, D.C.  
Monday, March 21  
at 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**  
Quartet in F for Oboe and Strings,  
K. 370

**Thomas F. Dunhill**  
*Phantasy Suite*, Opus 91

**Carolyn Bremer**  
*Opposable Thumbs* (2000)

Marine Band  
Dodd Auditorium  
Mary Washington College  
Fredericksburg, Va.  
Wednesday, March 23  
at 7:30 p.m.

*First Lieutenant Michelle A. Rakers,  
conducting*

**William Schuman**  
*George Washington Bridge*

**Mark D. Camphouse**  
*A Movement for Rosa* (1992)

**John Williams**/trans. Bocook  
*The Cowboys Overture*

*Programs subject to change*

**Dan Welcher**  
“Zion” (1994)

**Aaron Copland**/trans. Beeler  
*Lincoln Portrait*  
*GySgt Kevin Benneer, narrator*

**Samuel Augustus Ward**/arr. Dragon  
“America, the Beautiful”

Marine Chamber Ensembles  
George Washington Masonic  
National Memorial Auditorium  
Sunday, April 3 at 2 p.m.

**Elliot Carter**  
“Gra” (1993)

**Katherine Hoover**  
Suite for Two Flutes, Opus 17 (1977-81)

**Aaron Clay**  
*Claymation* (2004)

**Frank Zappa**/arr. Haas  
*The Black Page* (1976)

Marine Band  
GMU Center for the Arts  
Sunday, April 10 at 2 p.m.

*Lieutenant Colonel Michael J. Colburn,  
conducting*

NEW AND IMPROVED

**Melinda Wagner**/trans. Patterson  
“57/7 Dash”  
(World Première)

**Paul Creston**/trans. Brubaker  
Fantasy for Trombone, Opus 42  
*MGySgt Bryan Bourne, soloist*

**Igor Stravinsky**  
Concertino for Twelve Instruments

**arranged by Brian Pareschi**  
The Popular Duke Ellington (2003)  
(World Première)  
*GySgt Gregory Ridlington,  
alto saxophone*

**Don Gillis**/trans. Patterson  
*Shindig*  
(World Première)

*Marine Chamber Ensembles*  
*George Washington Masonic*  
*National Memorial Auditorium*  
*Sunday, April 17 at 2 p.m.*

AN AFTERNOON OF TWENTIETH CENTURY  
MUSIC

**Jan Bach**  
*Laudes* (1971)

**Alban Berg**  
Vier Stücke for Clarinet and Piano,  
Opus 5 (1913)

**Igor Stravinsky**  
Octet (1923, revised 1952)

*Marine Chamber Orchestra*  
*NVCC Alexandria Campus*  
*Schlesinger Center*  
*Sunday, April 24 at 2 p.m.*

*Captain Jason K. Fettig, conducting*

**Franz Joseph Haydn**  
Horn Concerto No. 1 in D  
*MSgt Max Cripe, soloist*

**David Diamond**  
Music for Shakespeare's  
*Romeo and Juliet* (1947)

**Johannes Brahms**  
Serenade No. 1 in D, Opus 11

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"I learned that regardless of what else is going on, it is vital to be passionate about music, and to care about music on a very fundamental level," Capt. Fettig said. He considers that to be his greatest professional influence.

Capt. Fettig came to "The President's Own" in 1997, a fact he attributes, with a smile, to some spilled milk. Eating breakfast one morning at a friend's house, Capt. Fettig spilled

some milk on a copy of the Marine Band's newsletter, *NOTES*.

"I had heard of the U.S. Marine Band, but did not know a lot about it," he said. "I looked through the newsletter and on the back was an audition announcement for clarinet."

The 22-year-old flew to Washington, D.C., for his first-ever professional audition—and won. With his family's support, Capt. Fettig had little doubt about joining the band. Three years later, a position opened to conduct "The President's Own" as an Assistant Director.

"At the time, I felt it was an unbelievable opportunity to conduct, which was always my aspiration, and to conduct an ensemble that was so wonderful," he remembers. In 2000, at the age of 25, Capt. Fettig became one of the youngest Assistant Directors in Marine Band history.

"So much has been accomplished in the 206-year history of the organization, and there is so much more we can accomplish," Capt. Fettig says. "I look at the future of the band and consider how it will progress in the next 100 years; it is amazing to be a part of that—to help shape the future."

*First Lieutenant Michelle A. Rakers*

For First Lieutenant Michelle A. Rakers, music hits close to home. The youngest of 11 children skilled in instruments from saxophone and piano to guitar and trumpet, the question for her was not whether to play, but what to play.

"I started playing piano when I was five years old," 1st Lt. Rakers said. "My sister was my music teacher." In fourth grade, 1st Lt. Rakers began playing organ for a local church and soon after was drawn to the trumpet.

"The majority of my brothers played trumpet, so there were a lot of trumpets around the house," 1st Lt. Rakers recalls. "One day, while my parents were out, my brother taught me a basic C scale that I played when they got home."

During high school, 1st Lt. Rakers began advanced trumpet study with Jim

Bursen of the University of Evansville in Evansville, Ind., where eventually she enrolled for her undergraduate studies. In high school, Bursen fueled 1st Lt. Rakers' interest in pursuing outside musical opportunities, and as a college student, he urged her to perform with professional groups.

Following graduate studies at Northwestern University in Chicago, 1st Lt. Rakers auditioned regularly—including a few times for the Marine Band—performed professionally, and even stopped playing for two years.

"It was a refreshing break—a break from the question, 'should I be doing this? Is this the path that I want to go in?'—and it helped answer my questions so that I could come back to it," 1st Lt. Rakers said.

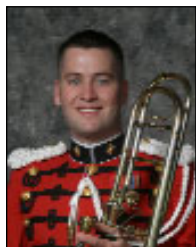
The break had a favorable impact. Shortly after returning to the trumpet, 1st Lt. Rakers took her final trumpet audition with the Marine Band. She joined the band in May 1998.

Initially, 1st Lt. Rakers was attracted to conducting as another way to experience music. She later learned, after conducting some chamber performances, that it was much more.

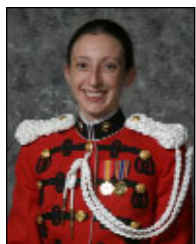
"To be able to combine my musical training—to thoroughly study scores and understand music analytically—with my emotional connection to music; then to be able to communicate it to the players while at the same time being somewhat of a guide for the listeners, is amazing," 1st Lt. Rakers said. The thrill and challenge of conducting was what motivated her to audition for, and win, a position as Assistant Director with the Marine Band. She became the first female conductor and commissioned officer in the history of the Marine Band.

"It is a great honor just to be a conductor in this organization, and by doing so, to provide a role model for young girls as a woman in a leadership role," 1st Lt. Rakers said. "I am fortunate to work with these musicians, with their tremendous amount of talent and musical experience."

## New Members



***Trombonist Staff Sergeant Preston Hardage*** of Chesterfield, Mo., earned a bachelor's degree and a performer's certificate from Indiana University in Bloomington in 2004. Prior to joining "The President's Own," Staff Sgt. Hardage won the Indiana University Concerto Competition and performed with the National Repertory Orchestra in Breckinridge, Colo.



***Librarian Staff Sergeant Julia Piorkowski*** of Aurora, Ill., attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, earning a bachelor's degree in 2000. She received a master's degree in 2003 from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Staff Sgt. Piorkowski is currently pursuing a doctorate in French horn performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.



***Trumpeter/Cornetist Staff Sergeant Brad Weil*** of Jasper, Ind., attended Indiana State University in Terre Haute, then transferred to Indiana University (IU) in Bloomington where he earned a bachelor's degree in 2003. Staff Sgt. Weil also pursued a master's degree at IU. Prior to joining "The President's Own," Staff Sgt. Weil performed with the Fort Wayne Symphony Orchestra and Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, both in Indiana.



***Saxophonist Staff Sergeant David Jenkins*** of Williamstown, Mass., attended the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, earning two bachelor's degrees in 1996. In 2001, he received a master's degree from Arizona State University in Tempe. Before joining "The President's Own," Staff Sgt. Jenkins performed with the Amherst Saxophone Quartet in Amherst, N.Y., and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra in St. Paul, Minn.

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Andrea Gabrieli's *Aria della battaglia* and Baroque composer Henry Purcell's *Funeral Music for Queen Mary*, transcribed and re-imagined by contemporary composer Steven Stucky.

The Marine Band produces recordings for educational purposes and to enhance the public affairs and community relations programs of the Marine Corps. The recordings are distributed free of charge to educational institutions, public libraries, and radio stations. Because appropriated funds are used, they may not be distributed for private use and are not for sale. Educators, librarians, and station managers may request that their educational institution, library, or radio station be added to the CD mailing list by writing on official letterhead to:

Head, Marine Band Branch  
Division of Public Affairs (PAB)  
Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps  
3000 Marine Corps Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20350-3000

## Vacancies

"The President's Own" announces auditions and interviews for the following vacancies:

Cello: April 25-26  
Clarinet: May 16-17  
Library: May 2-13

For more information, please contact:  
Operations Officer  
U.S. Marine Band  
8th and I Streets, SE  
Washington, DC 20390-5000  
(202) 433-5714  
USMBOPS@mbw.usmc.mil

Audition repertoire may be found at [www.marineband.usmc.mil](http://www.marineband.usmc.mil).  
The Marine Band is an equal opportunity employer.

## In Memoriam

Charlotte Plummer Owen, director of the U.S. Marine Corps Women's Reserve Band (1943-1945) and wife of former U.S. Marine Band member, the late Charles E. Owen, died on Dec. 18, 2004, in Ann Arbor, Mich. The Women's Reserve Band was formed in 1943 by Captain William F. Santelmann, Director of the U.S. Marine Band. Mrs. Owen was the Women's Reserve Band's only director until it was disbanded in 1945 at the conclusion of World War II. Mrs. Owen also was the first woman to guest conduct the U.S. Marine Band.

## Retirements

Oboist **Master Gunnery Sergeant James Dickey** of Dayton, Ohio, retired in January after 27 years with "The President's Own."

Violist **Master Sergeant Susan Franke** of Fairfax, Va., retired in January after 24 years with "The President's Own."